

Waste Management Program and WPDES Permits

DNR Publication WA 604-2004



P.O. Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin
53707-7921

Purpose of Guidance

The intent of this guidance is to clarify responsibilities and avoid the duplication of effort or over lapping of requirements between the Bureaus of Waste Management (WA) and Watershed Management (WT) when a Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit is issued.

WPDES Permits and Septage Licensing

It is the sole responsibility of the Watershed Management Program to regulate, under the authority of chs. 281 and 283, Wis. Stats., the land application and public distribution of the following:

1. Domestic sewage sludge meeting the applicability requirements of s. NR 204.02, Wis. Adm. Code and which are regulated pursuant to a WPDES permit.
2. Septage, as defined in s. NR 113.03(55), Wis. Adm. Code, and meeting the applicability requirements of that rule.
3. Industrial liquid wastes, by-product solids and sludges meeting the applicability requirements of s. NR 214.02(1), Wis. Adm. Code, including all such material that may

have beneficial properties as a soil conditioner or nutrient source and which are regulated pursuant to a WPDES permit.

4. Manure from agricultural operations regulated under ch. NR 243, Wis. Adm. Code and which are regulated pursuant to a WPDES permit.
5. Other waste materials that are co-mingled with materials listed in items 1 through 4 and which are regulated pursuant to a WPDES permit.

The treatment, storage, land application and public distribution of these materials will be regulated through the issuance of a WPDES permit or a license issued under the provisions of ss. 283.31 or 281.48, Wis. Stats.

Examples / Addressed by WPDES

Following are seven examples of waste materials that meet these conditions for WT regulation:

1. Municipal wastewater treatment sludges (biosolids) that are beneficially used through land application or public distribution and are regulated under a Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit.

2. Municipal wastewater treatment sludges (biosolids) that are:

- co-mingled with animal waste (including bedding wastes) or other types of waste (like separated / processed waste from a MSW landfill that is composted),
- treated, processed or blended at the wastewater treatment facility site or at a site controlled by the municipal wastewater treatment facility or at a site regulated under a WPDES permit,
- beneficially used, and
- regulated under a WPDES permit.

3. Liquid industrial wastewater, by-product solids and sludges that are beneficially used as a soil amendment and are regulated under a WPDES permit.

4. Industrial wastewater treatment sludges, liquid industrial wastewater and by-product solids that are:

- co-mingled with animal waste (including bedding wastes) or other organic/biodegradable waste,
- treated, processed or blended at the wastewater treatment facility site or at a site controlled by the industrial facility or at a site regulated under a WPDES permit,
- beneficially used, and
- regulated under a WPDES permit.

5. Farm/agricultural wastes (like manure) that originate from one or more farms that are:

- processed solely or in conjunction with other wastes (usually biodegradable wastes),
- further composted, processed or blended in such a manner as to allow beneficial use as a soil conditioner or source of nutrients and/or to generate

energy, and

- regulated under a WPDES permit.

6. Municipal wastewater treatment sludges (biosolids) that are:

- co-mingled with fly ash and/or alkaline materials to stabilize and treat the sludge (biosolids),
- treated, processed or blended at the wastewater treatment facility site or at a site controlled by the municipal wastewater treatment facility or at a site regulated under a WPDES permit,
- beneficially used, and
- regulated under a WPDES permit.

7. Industrial wastewater treatment sludges, liquid industrial wastewater and by-product solids that are:

- co-mingled with fly ash and/or alkaline materials to stabilize and treat the sludge (biosolids),
- treated, processed or blended at the wastewater treatment facility site or at a site controlled by the industrial wastewater treatment facility or at a site regulated under a WPDES permit,
- beneficially used, and
- regulated under a WPDES permit.

Examples / Addressed by Waste Management

Following are two examples of materials that would need to be regulated by the Waste Management Program:

1. Processed wastes (organic waste) from a MSW landfill that are:

- co-mingled with municipal sludge or industrial liquid wastewater treatment by-product solids (municipal or industrial facility has a WPDES permit),
 - composted or processed at the MSW landfill or a site that is not regulated by a WPDES permit, and
 - beneficially used.
2. Municipal lime and alum sludges that are generated from potable water treatment (may contain Ra and As) and are proposed to be beneficially used. Please note that this will be the responsibility of WA until WT develops (if and/or when) a general or specific WPDES permit program to address lime and alum sludges.

This publication / guidance is available in alternative format upon request. Please call (608) 266-2111 for more information.

This document is intended solely as guidance and does not include any mandatory requirements except where requirements found in statute or administrative rule are referenced. This guidance does not establish or affect legal rights or obligations and is not finally determinative of any of the issues addressed. This guidance does not create any rights enforceable by any party in litigation with the State of Wisconsin or the Department of Natural Resources. Any regulatory decisions made by the Department of Natural Resources in any manner addressed by this guidance will be made by applying the governing statutes and administrative rules to the relevant facts.

For more information on this subject visit our web site at www.dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/.

Program Responsibilities

WT will be responsible for evaluating and reviewing projects and submittals that meet these criteria, making the beneficial use determination where applicable and issuing a WPDES permit or septage license that is protective of the environment and public health.

Material that does not meet the criteria of the rules or statutes noted above and meet the applicability requirements contained in ch. NR 518 or other rules in the ch. NR 500 series of the Wis. Adm. Code, will be regulated by WA. WA will provide, if requested by WT, information and/or assistance on processing and beneficial use.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.